

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 131
By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Alzheimer's Association's Safe
Return Program.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to recognize Safe Return, a nationwide identification, support, and registration program for persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease and their caretakers; and

WHEREAS, each year, millions of Americans with Alzheimer's disease lose their ability to recognize familiar places and people; these sufferers easily become lost, can wander from home, and have a 50 percent chance of not being found alive after 24 hours of being lost; and

WHEREAS, families and caregivers of those with Alzheimer's disease, who have a 60 percent increased mortality rate due to the stress of their labor of love, live in constant fear that their loved ones may become disoriented and stray beyond the safety of their homes; such incidents can occur even when sufferers are vigilantly monitored; and

WHEREAS, Safe Return assists families, caregivers, and law enforcement by acting as an "Amber Alert" by promptly identifying and returning those Alzheimer's sufferers who become lost; the organization accomplishes its goal by providing those with Alzheimer's an identification

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bracelet or necklace, clothing labels, and wallet cards; these items, which feature a toll-free crisis number, signal that the individual is memory-impaired and may need help; and

WHEREAS, to assist in the search and return of lost persons, Safe Return maintains a national information and photo database that is helpful to law enforcement, which includes important emergency contact information and photographs of Alzheimer's patients; a 24-hour, toll-free crisis line, and a fax alert notification system; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its identification services, Safe Return acts as an education center for families coping with Alzheimer's disease; it offers training on how to decrease and manage wandering behavior and also provides information about a nationwide network of over 200 community-based chapters and offices of the Alzheimer's Association; and

WHEREAS, Safe Return's success depends on community cooperation: radio and television stations that broadcast the names and likenesses of missing seniors and those citizens who take responsibility for helping them play a critical role in this important public health effort; and

WHEREAS, for the families and caregivers of Alzheimer's sufferers, the knowledge that their loved ones may become lost is one of the most unsettling aspects of the disease; Safe Return is a resource for these families and caregivers, serving as an asset to the communities throughout Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the humanitarian work of the Alzheimer's Association's Safe Return Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

